

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 OTTAWA 01358 01 OF 02 180526Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-01
INR-10 NSAE-00 USIA-15 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06
SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 STR-07 CEA-01 /078 W
-----037565 180654Z /20

R 171735Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6702
INFO AMCONSUL CALGARY
AMCONSUL HALIFAX
AMCONSUL MONTREAL
AMCONSUL QUEBEC
AMCONSUL TORONTO
AMCONSUL VANCOUVER
AMCONSUL WINNIPEG

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 OTTAWA 01358

DEPT. PASS CEA, TREAS, FRB

E.O. 11652:N/A
TAGS: ECON, CA
SUBJECT: CANADIAN UNEMPLOYMENT RATE STEADY AT 8.3 PERCENT
IN FEBRUARY.

REF: OTTAWA 627.

1. SUMMARY. SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE WAS 8.3 PERCENT IN FEBRUARY, UNCHANGED FROM JANUARY LEVEL. TOTAL EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT ROSE. UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DECLINED FOR YOUNG PEOPLE, BUT ROSE FOR WOMEN AND WAS CONSTANT FOR PRIME AGED MALES. RATE FELL IN MAJORITY OF PROVINCES. RATIO OF EMPLOYMENT TO WORKING AGE POPULATION (SEE REFTEL) ROSE BETWEEN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY. NUMBER OF LONG TERM UNEMPLOYED HAS RISEN SUBSTANTIALLY. END SUMMARY.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 OTTAWA 01358 01 OF 02 180526Z

2. ACCORDING TO MARCH 15 STATCAN RELEASE, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE WAS 8.3 PERCENT IN FEBRUARY, UNCHANGED FROM JANUARY LEVEL. TOTAL EMPLOYMENT INCREASED BY 68,000 TO 9.9 MILLION WHILE TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT ROSE BY 10,000 TO 901,000. AGGREGATE PARTICIPATION RATE INCREASED BY 0.2 TO 62 IN JANUARY, FIRST INCREASE SINCE SEPTEMBER, 1977. PARTICIPATION RATE ROSE FOR ALL AGE/SEX GROUPS EXCEPT

FOR PRIME AGE MALES.

3. OVER 12 MONTHS TO FEBRUARY, LABOR FORCE GREW 3.2 PERCENT AND TOTAL EMPLOYMENT EXPANDED BY 2.8 PERCENT. TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT ROSE BY 8 PERCENT. DURING THIS PERIOD, AGGREGATE PARTICIPATION RATE INCREASED BY 0.6 PERCENT TO 62 PERCENT; PARTICIPATION RATE FOR WOMEN ROSE BY 1.4 TO 46.8 PERCENT WHILE MALE RATE DECLINED BY 0.2 TO 77.7 PERCENT. UNEMPLOYMENT RATE WAS 8 PERCENT IN FEBRUARY, 1977.

4. UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR PRIME AGE MALES WAS 5 PERCENT AND HAS REMAINED UNCHANGED SINCE DECEMBER, 1977. RATE ROSE FROM 7.5 PERCENT TO 7.7 PERCENT FOR WOMEN OVER 25, BUT DECLINED FOR PERSONS UNDER 25.

5. MAJORITY OF PROVINCES EXPERIENCED DECLINE IN UNEMPLOYMENT RATE. (SEE TABLE PARA 10). UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DECLINED IN QUEBEC AND ROSE IN ONTARIO.

6. ON NON-SEASONALLY ADJUSTED BASIS, TOTAL EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY WAS 9.6 MILLION, A 3.2 PERCENT RISE OVER FEBRUARY, 1977. LEVEL OF UNEMPLOYMENT WAS 1 MILLION, UP 8.1 PERCENT FROM FEBRUARY, 1977.

7. RATIO OF SEASONALLY ADJUSTED TOTAL EMPLOYMENT TO WORKING AGE POPULATION ROSE BY 0.3 FROM FEBRUARY LEVEL TO UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 OTTAWA 01358 01 OF 02 180526Z

56.8 PERCENT. RATIO INCREASED FOR ALL AGE/SEX GROUPS WITH EXCEPTION OF PRIME AGE MALES, FOR WHOM IT WAS CONSTANT.

8. POLITICAL OPPOSITION SHARPLY CRITICIZED GOVERNMENT FOR ITS ALLEGED FAILURE TO DEAL PROMPTLY WITH HIGH LEVEL OF UNEMPLOYMENT. PC LEADER, JOE CLARK, CALLED FOR STUDY GROUP COMPOSED OF REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL POLITICAL PARTIES TO STUDY ALTERNATIVE MEASURES FOR REDUCING UNEMPLOYMENT RATE SUCH AS MORE DIRECT GOVERNMENT JOB CREATION PROGRAMS. PC SOCIAL AFFAIRS CRITIC JAMES MCGRATH COMMENTED THAT PROBABILITY OF FINDING A JOB IN CANADA, AT ONE IN THIRTY-ONE (VACANCIES DIVIDED BY TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT), WAS FAR LOWER THAN THE ONE IN NINE CHANCE OF WINNING MONEY IN NATIONAL LOTTERY.

9. COMMENT. IN ADDITION TO CONTINUED HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, NUMBER OF LONG TERM (OVER 14 WEEKS) UNEMPLOYED HAS INCREASED. BETWEEN 1976 AND 1977, NUMBER OF LONG TERM UNEMPLOYED ROSE FROM 247,000 TO 302,000 AND REACHED 380,000 IN FEBRUARY, 1978. IN ADDITION, NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED IN 1977 WHOSE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE COMPENSATION HAS BEEN EXHAUSTED (EXHAUSTEES) WAS 464,000, COMPARED WITH

384,000 IN 1976. FIGURES INDICATE THAT HARDSHIP ASSOCIATED WITH HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT HAS SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASED.

10. UNEMPLOYMENT RATES BY PROVINCE.

----- FEB 1978 JAN. 1978 FEB. 1977

NEWFOUNDLAND	15.8	16.0	15.4
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND	8.2	10.7	9.9
NOVA SCOTIA	10.3	10.7	11.5
UNCLASSIFIED			

NNN

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 OTTAWA 01358 02 OF 02 180455Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-01
INR-10 NSAE-00 USIA-15 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06
SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 STR-07 CEA-01 /078 W
-----037181 180654Z /14

R 171735Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6703
INFO AMCONSUL CALGARY
AMCONSUL HALIFAX
AMCONSUL MONTREAL
AMCONSUL QUEBEC
AMCONSUL TORONTO
AMCONSUL VANCOUVER
AMCONSUL WINNIPEG

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 OTTAWA 01358

NEW BRUNSWICK	13.4	12.7	13.0
QUEBEC	10.9	11.4	9.9
ONTARIO	7.0	6.9	7.0
MANITOBA	6.5	6.2	6.2
SASKATCHEWAN	5.1	5.4	4.1
ALBERTA	4.7	4.2	4.1

BRITISH COLUMBIA	8.4	8.7	8.3
------------------	-----	-----	-----

CANADA	8.3	8.3	8.0
--------	-----	-----	-----

ENDERS

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: UNEMPLOYMENT, DATA, REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978OTTAWA01358
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780120-0598
Format: TEL
From: OTTAWA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780355/aaaabtwl.tel
Line Count: 173
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 288b17c5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 OTTAWA 627
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3291009
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CANADIAN UNEMPLOYMENT RATE STEADY AT 8.3 PERCENT IN FEBRUARY.
TAGS: ECON, CA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/288b17c5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014